

Phoenix is rising, again

Robotics team leaves DWC campus for new home at ASD

By **TINA FORBES**

Staff Writer

NASHUA – Greater Nashua FIRST Robotics Team 2342 has found a new home at the Academy for Science and Design, meeting its deadline to leave the Daniel Webster College campus by mid-May.

“The school let them use the space and tools at no cost, and in return, the team runs a FIRST Lego League tournament for the school each year,” said Amy Bewley, team mentor and communications coordinator for the Academy for Science and Design.

“They have been based out of Daniel Webster College for 10 years, working with the engineering department, which provided tools and college students who helped serve as mentors for this student-run team.”

With the future of the Daniel Webster College campus to be determined after the bankruptcy of its parent company, ITT, last September, the team was going to lose its base of operations the weekend of May 20.

“Even with everything going on at DWC, they allowed the team to stay this year while everything is in receivership,” Bewley said, adding the team has been searching for a new home since the bankruptcy was announced.

At the beginning of April, the Academy for Science and Design, a public charter school in Nashua, offered space for the team. While the space isn't a perfect fit for its needs, the team will have a place to land after

leaving DWC, Bewley said.

“ASD did not really have a good space for this, but (ASD Director) Jenn Cava stepped in with the offer of an unused space at the school to become a permanent home for the team,” Bewley said. “It is an old machine shop that was left behind by the former tenants.”

“The team needs to clean out the space and get it workable for themselves, and the team will continue to be its own 501(c) (3) and completely independent from ASD, but be able to have this permanent space.”

Team Phoenix doesn't represent any one school; it's a collection of Greater Nashua students including home-school students and students from Milford, Hollis and Next Charter School.

“Some join this team instead of the one at their high school, even

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Team made it to New Englands

CONTINUED FROM | PAGE 3 if the high school has one, because they want to be on a student-led team since they get to make all of the decision and do the work themselves,” Bewley said.

The team members have an adult mentor to guide and teach them, but the work is done by students.

The team made it to the New England District Championship this year, winning the Entrepreneurship Award, and ended the season ranked No. 46 in the New England District.

“The work that this team is doing, and the FIRST program in its entirety, deserves our support,” Cava said in a press statement. “Selfishly, I have also become a ‘Superfan’ of Team Phoenix, and I want to have more opportunities to see the team members and mentors during build season.”

Bewley said Team Phoenix was lucky to partner with Daniel Webster College for the last 10 years, especially with regard to the team’s role in running the FIRST Lego League.

“They provided access to their campus facilities for the team, and in return, Team 2342 helped to coordinate and run DWC’s FIRST Lego League tournament each fall,” Bewley said. “This is an outreach event that the students on Team Phoenix enjoy doing, giving back to the younger students interested in FIRST.”

However, losing the space at the DWC campus means losing access to its machines and tools. The team just found out April 13 that milling machines stored at DWC can be moved to the team’s new home at ASD.

The machines’ status was in limbo because of the college’s bankruptcy, Bewley said.

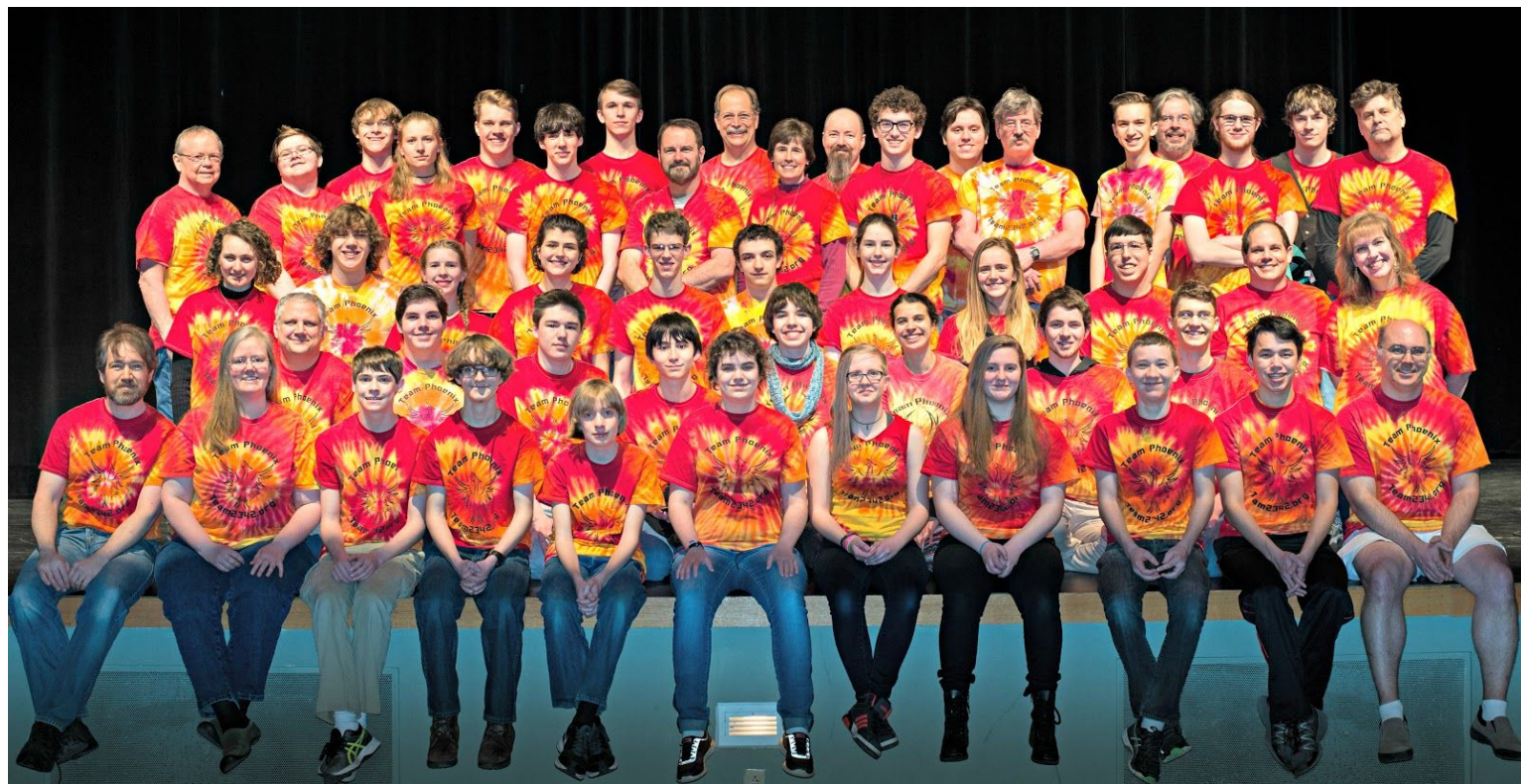
Bewley served as director of the tournament for two years, and said she hopes to eventually find a venue that will allow them to continue hosting the qualifying tournament for Greater Nashua.

“A perfect spot would have an auditorium, which ASD does not have, as well as classrooms to be used for an entire Saturday in November, with setting up occurring the night before,” she said.

Bewley encouraged any venue representative interested in speaking to the team to email her at Amy. Bewley@team2342.org.

The team has a wish list of other items, including a heavyweight CNC mill, lightweight CNC mill, lathe, table saw, band saw, arbor press, bench grinder, drill doctor, oven for powder coating, pegboard and pegs for frequently used tools, flammables cabinet and storage racks.

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Greater Nashua FIRST Team, team Phoenix, found a new home at the Academy for Science and Design.

MORE INFORMATION

This fall, Team Phoenix will accept new students from all area high schools, as well as home-school students. For more information about the team, visit content.team2342.org.

